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H – 2207

International Court of Justice

H2207 – 0001

COPY

Exhib. Nr 50

COMPLETED INTERROGATORY OF MINISTERIALRAT

DR. BEIL

BEHALF OF ROSENBERG

The witness having been duly sworn, states:

Q. Were you the permanent official (Sachbearbeiter) in the East-Ministry (Ost-Ministerium) in charge of the questions of labor and social policy?

A. Yes I was one of 10 permanent officials; we originally started with 52, but as the East front receded the Staff was finally reduced to 10. I was in charge of the administration side of the labor and social policy. The head of the d epartment was Landesbauernfuhrer PEUKERT.

Q. Was the East-Ministry in favor of voluntary recruiting of workers in the East?

A. Yes, of voluntary recruiting only, my instructions being that it should only be carried out on this basis.

Q. Are any results known?

A. Yes, but the results were not as great as anticipated, only some 300,000 to 400,000 volunteered and most of these were from Ukrains, Lithuania and Estonia.

Q: Were there any negotiations about decreasing the quotas, ordered by the GBA?

A: Yes, negotiations for decreasing the quotas took place but broke down owing to Saukel demanding something like a million workers to be transferred to the interior.

Q: Who was responsible for the care and control of the East Workers (Ostarbeiter) in the Reich?

A: The German Arbeits front and the Reichnahrstand were responsible for the care of the East Workers, the former for workers in munitions and heavy Industry and the latter for Agricultural Workers.

Q: What was the point of view of the department ASO, concerning the treatment of the East Workers in the Reich?

A: The view of my department A.S.O., was that the voluntary recruiting of workers on a free movement basis, thus taking them out of the (?)bashedwine enclosed factories, would be the best method of treatment; we also advocated the removal of the armbadges worn originally on the arm and later on the left wrist, which carried the word "East" so as to distinguish them from workers from the West, who never at any time wore badges. The wording being changed later to "Greater Russia", "White Russia", and Ukraine, the people from the Baltic States

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did not wear the arm badge. Certain Russians, small groups of Cossacks, Taters and one or two others were not compelled to wear the arm band, as they were anti-Bolchevistic and pro-German, and a certain proportion of these were eventually called up into the German Army. Some 7,000 youths for Rhuthania were called up by ASO and these were apprenticed at Junkers Works.

Q: Is the Central Office (Zentralistelle) for the Eastern People (Ostvoelker) at the East Ministry known to you? How was this organized?

A: Yes, it was considered to be a consulate for the East, members of the Staff were partly Germans and partly local employees from the East who were considered suitable for such employment. Some of the foreign employees were placed at the disposal of the County offices to look after the interests of their fellow countrymen working in the Countries. At the Central office were instituted offices for each of the Eastern States, each office being controlled by a German, some of whom had originally come from these States. There was also a Welfare branch which was run by persons from these Eastern States, to look after the comfort etc. of their individual countrymen, there was also a religious branch which was run by clergy from these countries, but this branch was not very successful as there was an insufficiency of priests.

Q: How, with the help of the DAF, were the complaints followed up?

A: The interests of foreign workers were always looked after, missions were sent to the various concentrations of East workers to find out how they were progressing and what kind of treatment they were receiving. These missions dealt with complaints submitted to them on their visits, but the Central Office had to deal also with written complaints received through the post.

Q: Is a printed circular to the authorities in the country known to you that ordered a just treatment? Details? What was the story about the families who were evacuated by the Army Group Center, and about the children 10-14 years old?

A: Yes, there was a circular issued, dealing with this question and it gave details at great length for the just treatment of the East Workers. This circular was issued at the request of the Ministry of the East, through Saukel. A second circular was issued by Rosenberg dealing with the just treatment of workers from the East only. I have no knowledge of this story as this was dealt with entirely by Army group centre.

Q: Does the witness know the pamphlet issued by the East Ministry to the managers of enterprises concerning the nations of Eastern Europe and the attitude towards them?

There were two pamphlets issued; one issued by SAUKEL and the other issued in conjunction with DAF and Saukel and the Ministry for the East.

Q: Has he one handy?

A: I have not got a copy of this pamphlet.

H.S. Strauch.
Interpretor: (~~Strauch~~) /s/ /s/ BEIL

The foregoing replies were taken down by me from the interpretation of H.G. Strauch, the Chief Camp Interpreter.

/s/ ......S. Ball,
Major, Ra.
#4 Civil Internment Camp.

BAOR
4/6/46

G.R.

Replies to Questionnaire
Submitted to
Ministerialrat Dr Beil

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The witness having been duly sworn, states:-

ANS I. Yes I was one of 10 permanent Officials, we originally started with 52, but as the East-front receded the staff was finally reduced to 10. I was in charge of the administration side of the labour + social policy. The head of this department was Landesbauernführer PEUKERT.

ANS II YES. Of voluntary recruiting only, my instructions being that it should only be carried out on this basis.

ANS III YES but the results were not as great as anticipated, only some 300,000 to 400,000 volunteered + most of these were from Ukraine, Lithuania + Estonia.

ANS IV. Yes, negotiations for decreasing the quotas took place, but broke down owing to Sauckel demanding something like a million workers to be transferred to the interior.

ANS V The German Arbeitsfront + the Reichsnährstand were responsible for the care of the East-Workers, the former for workers in munition + heavy industry + the latter for Agricultural Workers.

ANS VI The view of my department A.S.O., was that the voluntary recruiting of workers on a free

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movement basis, thus taking them out of the barbed wire enclosed factories, would be the best method of treatment, we also advocated the removal of the arm badges worn originally on the arm + later on the left breast, which carried the word "East" so as to distinguish them from workers from the west who never at any time wore badges. The wording being changed later to "Greater Russia" "White Russia" + Ukraine, the people from the Baltic States did not wear the arm badge. Certain Russians, small group of Cossacks, Tatars + one or two others were not compelled to wear the arm band, as they were anti-Bolchevists + pro-German, + a certain proportion of these were eventually called up into the German Army. Some 7000 youths from ~~Ruthe Rhutania~~ Ruthania, were called up by ASO + these were apprenticed at Junkers Works.

BASEDWINE

ANS VII

YES. It was considered to be a Consulate for the East, members of the staff were partly Germans + partly local employees from the East who were considered suitable for such employment. Some of the foreign employees were placed at the disposal of the County Offices to look after the interests of their fellow countrymen working in the Counties. At the Central Office were instituted offices for each of the Eastern states, each office being controlled by a German, some of whom had originally come from these States. There was also a Welfare branch which was run by persons from these Eastern States, to look after the comfort etc of their individual countrymen; there was also a Religious branch which was run by clergy from these Countries

G.R.

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but this branch was not very successful as there was an insufficiency of priests.

ANS VIII. The interests of foreign workers were always looked after, missions were sent to the various concentrations of East workers to find out how they were progressing + what kind of treatment they were receiving. These missions dealt with complaints submitted to them on their visits, but the Central Office had to deal also with written complaints received through the Post.

ANS IX Yes there was a circular issued, dealing with this question + it gave details ~~at~~ great length for the just treatment of the East-Workers. This circular was issued at the request of the Ministry of the East, through Sauckel. A second circular was issued by Rosenberg dealing with the just-treatment of workers from the East only.

ANS X I have no knowledge of this story as this was dealt with entirely by Army Group Centre.

ANS XI There were two pamphlets issued, one issued by Sauckel + the other issued in conjunction with DAF + Sauckel + the Ministry for the ~~the~~ East.

ANS XII I have not got a copy of this pamphlet.

Interpreter: [signature]. [signature: Albert Beil]

Beil P.T.O.

G.R.

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The foregoing replies were taken down by me from the interpretation of H. G. Strauch. the Chief Camp Interpreter.

Chas. L. S. Ball Major R.A.
No 6 Civil Internment Camp.

BAOR
~~8~~/6/46

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[illegible]

Dep.

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